

**UNOFFICIAL VERSION**

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**MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018**

**FORTY-SIXTH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate met at 5:00 p.m., and was called to order by Mr. Speaker McNally.

**PRAYER**

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Reverend Doctor Robert Lewis Stout of Berean Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, a guest of Senator Harris.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Senator Harris led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF TENNESSEE**

Senator Harris led the Senate in the Salute to the Flag of Tennessee.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken with the following results:

Present . . . . . 32

Senators present were: Bailey, Bell, Bowling, Briggs, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Green, Gresham, Haile, Harper, Harris, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Lundberg, Massey, Niceley, Norris, Pody, Roberts, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Tate, Watson, Yager, Yarbrow and Mr. Speaker McNally--32.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ENERGY, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Committee on Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources begs leave to report that we have carefully considered and recommend for passage: Senate Bill No. 295 with amendment.

SOUTHERLAND, Chairperson  
January 25, 2018

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Bill No. 295 with amendment to the Committee on Calendar.

**PRESENTATION**

Senators Briggs and Massey introduced Ms. Caty Davis, Miss Tennessee 2017, who sang the National Anthem.

MOTION

Senator Dickerson moved that Rules 32, 33 and 37 be suspended for the introduction and immediate consideration of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 531**, out of order, which motion prevailed.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 531** by Mr. Speaker McNally and Senator Dickerson.  
Memorials, Death -- Senator Joe Haynes.

On motion of Senator Dickerson, the rules were suspended for the immediate consideration of the resolution.

On motion, **Senate Joint Resolution No. 531** was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes .....	32
Noes .....	0

Senators voting aye were: Bailey, Bell, Bowling, Briggs, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Green, Gresham, Haile, Harper, Harris, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Lundberg, Massey, Niceley, Norris, Pody, Roberts, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Tate, Watson, Yager, Yarbro and Mr. Speaker McNally--32.

A motion to reconsider was tabled.

MOTION

Senator Norris moved, pursuant to Rule 32 and Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, **Senate Bills Nos. 1861 through 1919** be passed on first consideration, which motion prevailed.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

The Speaker announced the following bills were filed for introduction and passed first consideration:

**Senate Bill No. 1861** by Senator Watson.

Tourism -- As introduced, adds the fiscal review committee to list receiving a synopsis of the annual conference and convention center facilities compliance report from a local government with a covered qualified public use facility. Amends TCA Title 3; Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 9; Title 57 and Title 67.

**Senate Bill No. 1862** by Senator Stevens.

Insurance Companies, Agents, Brokers, Policies -- As introduced, imposes certain rules of construction when interpreting an insurer's responsibilities under a policy of insurance; limits an insurer's duty to defend based on the allegations in the underlying complaint. Amends TCA Title 56.

**Senate Bill No. 1863** by Senator Kyle.

Sex Discrimination -- As introduced, enacts the "Tennessee Pay Equality Act." Amends TCA Title 50.

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**Senate Bill No. 1864** by Senator Kelsey.

Development Districts -- As introduced, authorizes the City of Germantown to pursue certification of a border region retail tourism development district. Amends TCA Title 7, Chapter 40.

**Senate Bill No. 1865** by Senator Jackson.

Probation and Parole -- As introduced, establishes framework for the department of correction making four \$500,000 grants to local sheriff departments or probation offices for the purpose of funding reentry programs designed to reduce recidivism and probation revocations. Amends TCA Title 40, Chapter 35, Part 3.

**Senate Bill No. 1866** by Senator Jackson.

Alcoholic Beverages -- As introduced, changes from February 1 to February 15 the date by which beer boards must file an annual statistical report with the alcoholic beverage commission. Amends TCA Title 57.

**Senate Bill No. 1867** by Senator Jackson.

Local Government, General -- As introduced, clarifies that a county and city may enter into an interlocal agreement for purposes of collecting and remitting business license fees. Amends TCA Section 5-1-113.

**Senate Bill No. 1868** by Senator Southerland.

Capitol -- As introduced, administratively attaches the David Crockett commission to the department of finance and administration; creates a separate account within the treasury to be used to erect a monument; authorizes state funds to be used to erect a monument. Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 8, Part 4.

**Senate Bill No. 1869** by Senator Lundberg.

Insurance Companies, Agents, Brokers, Policies -- As introduced, authorizes certain insureds, or other persons entitled to benefits under a policy, to assign their benefits to a healthcare provider; authorizes an insurer to disregard such assignments under certain circumstances; prohibits healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities and providers in such facilities, from collecting out-of-network charges unless certain requirements are met. Amends TCA Title 8; Title 56; Title 63 and Title 68.

**Senate Bill No. 1870** by Senator Lundberg.

Remedies and Special Proceedings -- As introduced, allows a cause of action for any affected person who seeks declaratory and injunctive relief in any action brought regarding the legality or constitutionality of a governmental action, but such action does not include damages. Amends TCA Title 1, Chapter 3.

**Senate Bill No. 1871** by Senator Lundberg.

Orders of Protection -- As introduced, requires service of an order of protection by mail be done by registered mail; declares service by mail complete upon receipt of the return receipt; deems a refusal by the addressee noted by the postal service on the return receipt as complete and sufficient notice. Amends TCA Title 36, Chapter 3, Part 6.

**Senate Bill No. 1872** by Senator Lundberg.

Criminal Offenses -- As introduced, increases from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor the offense of assault by offensive or provocative contact if accomplished by causing bodily fluids to make physical contact with another. Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1.

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**Senate Bill No. 1873** by Senator Lundberg.

Health, Dept. of -- As introduced, empowers the emergency medical services board to certify training programs for certain emergency medical services personnel operated by licensed ambulance services. Amends TCA Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 3.

**Senate Bill No. 1874** by Senator Lundberg.

Taxes, Exemption and Credits -- As introduced, authorizes a business to take a credit against the business's franchise and excise tax liability for charitable donations made to nonprofits that provide opioid abuse treatment services and programs under certain circumstances. Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 4, Part 20 and Title 67, Chapter 4, Part 21.

**Senate Bill No. 1875** by Senator Massey.

Criminal Offenses -- As introduced, enacts "Henry's Law"; requires that a person convicted for second degree murder resulting from unlawful distribution of Schedule I or II drug where victim is a minor be sentenced, at a minimum, as a Range II offender. Amends TCA Section 39-13-210 and Title 40, Chapter 35.

**Senate Bill No. 1876** by Senator Dickerson.

Taxes, Sales -- As introduced, exempts sales of caskets from sales and use tax. Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 6, Part 3.

**Senate Bill No. 1877** by Senator Green.

Forfeiture of Assets -- As introduced, requires comptroller to audit use of civil asset forfeiture proceeds by local law enforcement agencies and judicial district drug task forces during regular audit of local government; requires department of safety to publish uses of forfeiture proceeds by department and results of comptroller's audit on department's website. Amends TCA Title 8, Chapter 4 and Title 40, Chapter 33, Part 2.

**Senate Bill No. 1878** by Senator Harris.

Hospitals and Health Care Facilities -- As introduced, reduces the fees paid in the certificate of need program by a critical access hospital by 50 percent. Amends TCA Title 7 and Title 68.

**Senate Bill No. 1879** by Senator Briggs.

Planning, Public -- As introduced, prevents new or amended subdivision regulations proposed by a regional planning commission from taking effect until approved by the county legislative body of any county, and by the governing body of any municipality, lying wholly or partly within the region; removes requirement that a regional planning commission hold a public hearing on subdivision regulations prior to adoption. Amends TCA Title 13.

**Senate Bill No. 1880** by Senator Briggs.

Utilities, Utility Districts -- As introduced, requires proportionate representation on certain municipal electric utility boards; requires direct payment of tax equivalent amounts to the taxing jurisdictions in the various counties in which a municipal utility's electric plant is located under certain circumstances; eliminates exemptions from the manner in which tax equivalent amounts are directed to certain taxing jurisdictions. Amends TCA Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 65 and Title 67.

**Senate Bill No. 1881** by Senator Briggs.

TennCare -- As introduced, reduces the time period from 30 to 15 days for an enrollee or applicant for medical assistance to mail documentation of a material change affecting the enrollee or applicant's TennCare application. Amends TCA Title 68 and Title 71.

**Senate Bill No. 1882** by Senator Briggs.

Highway Signs -- As introduced, directs the department of transportation to erect signs acknowledging each branch of the military within the segment designated as the "Veterans Memorial Mile" in Knox County; authorizes representatives from each branch to plant flowers or other installations within the median of the segment for beautification or decorative purposes; authorizes such representatives to maintain such installations. Amends TCA Title 54; Title 55; Chapter 85 of the Public Acts of 2011 and Chapter 641 of the Public Acts of 2012.

**Senate Bill No. 1883** by Senator Briggs.

Motor Vehicles, Titling and Registration -- As introduced, permits registration plates to be renewed every 24 months instead of 12 months. Amends TCA Title 55, Chapter 4 and Title 55, Chapter 6.

**Senate Bill No. 1884** by Senator Briggs.

Insurance, Health, Accident -- As introduced, revises requirements for mental health parity with medical health insurance statutes to require certain demonstrations of parity and reports from insurers. Amends TCA Title 56 and Title 71.

**Senate Bill No. 1885** by Senator Yarbro.

Pest Control -- As introduced, requires applicators to notify the department of agriculture prior to making aerial applications of pesticides via an online reporting system, instead of notifying county sheriff's offices. Amends TCA Title 43, Chapter 8.

**Senate Bill No. 1886** by Senator Kelsey.

Taxes, Exemption and Credits -- As introduced, requires the commissioner of revenue to annually report the amount of disaster relief refunds issued by the department. Amends TCA Title 67.

**Senate Bill No. 1887** by Senator Massey.

Children's Services, Dept. of -- As introduced, prohibits the department from providing more than 24 hours notice of a home visit if the department determines a home visit is necessary to assist in an assessment of a child and family after a report of harm to the child. Amends TCA Title 37.

**Senate Bill No. 1888** by Senator Tate.

Barbers and/or Cosmetologists -- As introduced, requires certain professionals in the fields of barbering and cosmetology to complete five hours of biennial continuing education prior to license renewal; directs the state board of cosmetology and barber examiners to determine the qualifying curriculum. Amends TCA Title 62, Chapter 3 and Title 62, Chapter 4.

**Senate Bill No. 1889** by Senator Tate.

State Government -- As introduced, requires the head of every state department to annually report the number of preferred service employees whose employments were impacted by a reduction in force to the chairs of the state government committee of the house of representatives and the state and local government committee of the senate. Amends TCA Title 4; Title 8; Title 9, Chapter 4, Part 53; Title 10; Title 11; Title 12; Title 41; Title 50; Title 54 and Title 58.

**Senate Bill No. 1890** by Senator Tate.

Sports -- As introduced, increases from 50 percent to 75 percent the percentage of required quarterly meetings that members of the Tennessee athletic commission are required to attend. Amends TCA Title 68, Chapter 115.

**Senate Bill No. 1891** by Senator Tate.

Education -- As introduced, requires the state board and the department of education to report to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction and programs committee of the

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house of representatives by July 1, 2018, as to the actions taken to implement a sexual violence awareness and prevention curriculum, if any, for students in grades 7-12. Amends TCA Title 49.

**Senate Bill No. 1892** by Senator Tate.

Education -- As introduced, requires LEAs to annually survey students, within one month of the start of each school year, starting in the 2018-2019 school year, as to the availability of internet access in their homes and annually report the results to the department of education by November 1; the department will annually report the results to the governor, the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives, and the education committee of the senate by December 15. Amends TCA Title 49.

**Senate Bill No. 1893** by Senator Gresham.

Taxes, Sales -- As introduced, exempts from the sales and use tax the sale of platinum, gold, or silver bullion, the sale of numismatic coins that are sold for less than \$10,000, and the sale of numismatic coins at a national, statewide, or multi-county trade show. Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 6.

**Senate Bill No. 1894** by Senator Gresham.

Utilities, Utility Districts -- As introduced, authorizes a municipality to fund chambers of commerce and economic and community organizations with revenue from a natural gas utility system owned by the municipality. Amends TCA Title 7, Chapter 34.

**Senate Bill No. 1895** by Senator Gresham.

Utilities, Utility Districts -- As introduced, authorizes a municipality in McNairy or Fayette County to fund chambers of commerce and economic and community organizations with revenue from a natural gas utility system owned by the municipality. Amends TCA Title 7, Chapter 34.

**Senate Bill No. 1896** by Senator Gresham.

Education -- As introduced, revises the Course Access Program Act. Amends TCA Title 49.

**Senate Bill No. 1897** by Senator Gresham.

Local Education Agencies -- As introduced, requires each LEA to develop a policy that details how a student's end-of-course examination scores are weighted and incorporated into a student's final course grade; allows the LEA to not include its students' end-of-course examination scores in a student's final grade if the scores are not received at least five instructional days before the end of the course. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6.

**Senate Bill No. 1898** by Senator Gresham.

Local Education Agencies -- As introduced, revises provisions governing the percentage of student achievement test scores comprising a student's final grade in certain subjects. Amends TCA Section 49-1-617.

**Senate Bill No. 1899** by Senator Gresham.

Schools, Charter -- As introduced, specifies that the state board of education is the LEA for those charter schools that it authorizes. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 2; Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 13 and Title 49, Chapter 3.

**Senate Bill No. 1900** by Senator Gresham.

Special License Plates -- As introduced, authorizes surviving spouses of deceased national guard members to continue use of, or obtain formerly held, national guard license plates. Amends TCA Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2 and Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 3.

**Senate Bill No. 1901** by Senator Gresham.

Schools, Charter -- As introduced, requires school districts to provide excess cost reimbursement funds received due to students generating excess costs to schools; requires special education services associations to provide services to charter schools; authorizes charter schools to create a special education services association. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 10.

**Senate Bill No. 1902** by Senator Haile.

Adoption -- As introduced, requires court hearing adoption to suspend proceeding if putative father or established father is served with notice of the adoption but does nothing until time court is scheduled to declare father in default; court to hold hearing within 30 days of date scheduled for adoption hearing to determine if there are grounds to terminate the parental rights of the father. Amends TCA Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1.

**Senate Bill No. 1903** by Senator Haile.

Adoption -- As introduced, prohibits vacating an otherwise valid order of adoption because the order was not completed within one year of the filing of the petition. Amends TCA Section 36-1-119.

**Senate Bill No. 1904** by Senators Yager and Massey.

Employees, Employers -- As introduced, prohibits an employer in this state from discriminating against an applicant for employment or an employee on the basis of disability; requires the employer to provide a reasonable accommodation to the applicant or employee with certain exceptions; establishes procedures and remedies for disability discrimination claims. Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 21.

**Senate Bill No. 1905** by Senator Yager.

County Government -- As introduced, requires members of county legislative bodies, initially after election or appointment, to complete orientation training provided by the University of Tennessee's county technical advisory service (CTAS); requires the members to complete seven hours of annual continuing education training provided by CTAS; requires the comptroller of the treasury to post online the names of members and their status with respect to compliance with the training requirements. Amends TCA Title 5, Chapter 5.

**Senate Bill No. 1906** by Senator Yager.

Purchasing and Procurement -- As introduced, authorizes a local government to execute a cooperative purchasing agreement with other local, state, and federal governmental entities for purposes of purchasing farm tractors, mowers, earth-moving and construction machinery, and similar machinery and equipment; provided, that a local government does not have the authority to purchase construction machinery under a cooperative purchasing agreement with an agency of the United States. Amends TCA Section 12-3-1205.

**Senate Bill No. 1907** by Senator Dickerson.

Alcoholic Beverages -- As introduced, designates Gaylord Springs Golf Links a premier type tourist resort for purposes of consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises. Amends TCA Section 57-4-102.

**Senate Bill No. 1908** by Senator Niceley.

Business and Commerce -- As introduced, establishes the Tennessee horse racing commission to regulate horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering in Tennessee. Amends TCA Title 4; Title 39; Title 44; Title 62 and Title 67.

**Senate Bill No. 1909** by Senator Niceley.

Food and Food Products -- As introduced, exempts certain homemade foods and beverages from food branding, labeling, and inspection requirements. Amends TCA Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 43; Title 53 and Title 68.

**Senate Bill No. 1910** by Senator Niceley.

Firearms and Ammunition -- As introduced, prevents a municipality from charging a person with a violation of any ordinance prohibiting discharging a firearm within the municipal limits if the person acted in justifiable self-defense or to prevent the commission of a criminal offense when discharging the firearm. Amends TCA Section 39-17-1322.

**Senate Bill No. 1911** by Senator Niceley.

Local Government, General -- As introduced, prohibits a municipality or county from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or resolution that prohibits a property owner from displaying the flag of the United States or an official or replica flag of any branch of the United States armed forces on the property owner's property. Amends TCA Title 5, Chapter 5; Title 6, Chapter 54 and Title 13, Chapter 7.

**Senate Bill No. 1912** by Senator Niceley.

Wine & Wineries -- As introduced, clarifies winery may sell fruit, cheese, appetizers, chips, pretzels, and other snack foods regardless if they are served to pair with wine. Amends TCA Section 57-3-207.

**Senate Bill No. 1913** by Senator Niceley.

Milk, Dairy Products -- As introduced, defines "butter" for purposes of the Dairy Law of the State of Tennessee to have the same meaning as currently used under federal law. Amends TCA Title 53.

**Senate Bill No. 1914** by Senator Niceley.

Forests and Forest Products -- As introduced, requires designation of free-use areas where residents can obtain dead timber from state forests for their personal use under certain circumstances. Amends TCA Title 9, Chapter 8; Title 11, Chapter 4; Title 29, Chapter 20 and Title 43.

**Senate Bill No. 1915** by Senator Niceley.

Controlled Substances -- As introduced, clarifies that the present law that exempts certain oils containing cannabidiol and used for research or treatment of seizures or epilepsy will not be repealed on June 30, 2018; and removes DEA certification as an eligibility condition for the research exemption. Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 17 and Title 43.

**Senate Bill No. 1916** by Senator Niceley.

Medical Occupations -- As introduced, prohibits adverse action against licenses to practice certain health care professions based on recommending, prescribing, or marketing industrial hemp-based products. Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 4; Title 43 and Title 63.

**Senate Bill No. 1917** by Senator Niceley.

Criminal Offenses -- As introduced, prohibits a person not acting under color of law from intercepting a wire, oral, or electronic communication unless the person is a party to the communication and all parties to the communication have given consent, rather than one party's consent. Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 40, Chapter 6, Part 3.



**Senate Bill No. 1918** by Senator Niceley.

Civil Procedure -- As introduced, authorizes aggrieved parties to demand a jury in judicial review of an administrative hearing under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act and in cases for a permanent injunction or forfeiture under the Tennessee Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Amends TCA Section 3-6-204; Title 4; Section 8-3-102; Title 27; Title 29; Section 36-5-1003; Section 36-5-1107; Section 37-5-514; Section 39-17-1509; Section 40-33-213; Section 42-2-224; Section 47-9-513; Section 49-1-1107; Title 53; Section 55-12-103; Section 55-17-116; Section 55-10-425; Section 60-1-401; Title 65; Title 67, Chapter 5, Part 13; Section 68-120-110; Section 68-201-116; Section 68-212-113; Section 68-212-114; Section 68-212-215; Section 68-221-714; Section 68-1-104; Section 69-3-115; Section 69-11-118; Section 71-3-510; Section 71-4-507 and Section 71-3-509.

**Senate Bill No. 1919** by Senator Dickerson.

State Employees -- As introduced, increases the cash award for the employee suggestion award program from a one-time award of 10 percent of the first year's estimated savings to 15 percent of the annual savings received in a fiscal year for a maximum period of three years. Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 27.

**MOTION**

Senator Norris moved, pursuant to Rule 33 and Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that **Senate Bills Nos. 1794 through 1860** be passed on second consideration and be referred to the appropriate committees or held on the Clerk's desk, which motion prevailed.

**SENATE BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

The Speaker announced the following bills passed second consideration and were referred to the appropriate committees or held on the Clerk's desk:

**Senate Bill No. 1794** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1795** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1796** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1797** referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**Senate Bill No. 1798** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1799** referred to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

**Senate Bill No. 1800** referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**Senate Bill No. 1801** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 1802** referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**Senate Bill No. 1803** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1804** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1805** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1806** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1807** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1808** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1809** referred to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

**Senate Bill No. 1810** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1811** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1812** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1813** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1814** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1815** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1816** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1817** referred to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

**Senate Bill No. 1818** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1819** referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

**Senate Bill No. 1820** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1821** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1822** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1823** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1824** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1825** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1826** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1827** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 1828** referred to the Committee on Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Senate Bill No. 1829** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

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**Senate Bill No. 1830** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1831** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1832** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 1833** referred to the Committee on Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Senate Bill No. 1834** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1835** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1836** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1837** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1838** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1839** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1840** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1841** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1842** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1843** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1844** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1845** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1846** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1847** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1848** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1849** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1850** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1851** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1852** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1853** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1854** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1855** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 1856** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 1857** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 1858** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1859** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 1860** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

### **MOTION**

Senator Norris moved, pursuant to Rule 21, **Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 525 through 530**; and **Senate Resolution No. 152** be passed on first consideration and lie over, which motion prevailed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

The Speaker announced the following resolutions were filed for introduction. Pursuant to Rule 21, the resolutions lie over.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 525** by Senator Watson.

General Assembly, Confirmation of Appointment -- Tony Sanders, Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 526** by Senator Southerland.

Memorials, Professional Achievement -- Patrol Sergeant Eddie Dilbeck, Morristown Police Department.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 527** by Senator Southerland.

Memorials, Recognition -- Morning Pointe of Greeneville.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 528** by Senator Kelsey.

General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position -- Recognizes the challenges faced by medical professionals and facilities.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 529** by Senator Gresham.

General Assembly, Confirmation of Appointment -- John Charles Wilson, Forestry Commission.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 530** by Senator Niceley.

General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position -- Urges Congress and the United States Department of Health and Human Services to revise and update the Medicare Wage Index factor.

**Senate Resolution No. 152** by Senator Tate.

Memorials, Death -- Kevin Lee Taylor.

**MOTION**

Senator Norris moved, pursuant to Rule 21, **House Joint Resolutions Nos. 636 through 639, 641 through 654 and 656; Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 517 through 524; and Senate Resolution No. 151** lie over and be referred to the appropriate committees or held on the Clerk's desk, which motion prevailed.

**RESOLUTIONS LYING OVER**

The Speaker announced the following resolutions passed second consideration and were referred to the appropriate committees or held on the desk, pursuant to Rule 21:

**House Joint Resolution No. 636** -- Memorials, Death -- Jesse Wilburn.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 636 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 637** -- Memorials, Death -- Bernal E. Smith II.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 637 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 638** -- Memorials, Recognition -- W.C. Handy Heritage Awards.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 638 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 639** -- Memorials, Death -- Reverend Dwight Montgomery.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 639 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 641** -- Memorials, Congratulations -- Taiwan.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 641 to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

**House Joint Resolution No. 642** -- Memorials, Professional Achievement -- Robin Copp, 2017-2018 Tennessee Department of Education Principal of the Year.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 642 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 643** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Justin Lane Campbell, Eagle Scout.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 643 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 644** -- Memorials, Recognition -- First Baptist Church of Tellico Village, 20th Anniversary.

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The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 644 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 645** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Monterey Mushrooms, 40th Anniversary.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 645 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 646** -- Memorials, Death -- Dr. Jimmy Lynn Verner.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 646 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 647** -- Memorials, Heroism -- Melinda Moroz.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 647 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 648** -- General Assembly -- Provides for affixing plaque at Representative Lois DeBerry's desk in House chambers to commemorate her legislative service.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 648 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 649** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Self-Care Month, February 2018.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 649 to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**House Joint Resolution No. 650** -- Memorials, Death -- John H. "Jack" Morris III.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 650 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 651** -- Memorials, Retirement -- Rodney Archer.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 651 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 652** -- Memorials, Death -- Johnnie Elizabeth Hammontree Myers.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 652 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 653** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, 100th Anniversary.

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The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 653 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 654** -- Memorials, Heroism -- Putnam County Sheriff's Office and Putnam County Emergency Medical Services.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 654 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 656** -- Memorials, Sports -- Phillip Edward Fulmer, Sr., Director of Athletics at the University of Tennessee.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 656 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 517** -- Memorials, Retirement -- Don Odom.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 517 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 518** -- Memorials, Government Officials -- Supports construction of interchange on I-24 at Rocky Fork Road in Rutherford County.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 518 to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 519** -- Historical Sites and Preservation -- Partially revokes the trust created for the Sam Davis home to allow the Sam Davis Memorial Association to sell a portion of the property and use the proceeds for repairs and upkeep.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 519 to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 520** -- General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position -- Urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue 340B drug discount program funding at current levels and immediately address the Medicare Wage Index rate in East Tennessee.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 520 to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 521** -- Constitutional Amendments -- Proposes an amendment to Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution of Tennessee to provide for the exercise of powers and duties of the governor during disability.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 521 to the Committee on Judiciary.

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**Senate Joint Resolution No. 522** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Cocke County, Governor's ThreeStar Award.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 522 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 523** -- Memorials, Recognition -- William T. "Bill" Hale, Joe Q. Dougherty Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 523 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 524** -- Memorials, Retirement -- Police Chief Terry Cannon, Greeneville Police Department.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 524 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Resolution No. 151** -- Memorials, Death -- Daniel McKenzie Speer.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Resolution No. 151 to the Committee on Calendar.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 495** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Jack Pearson.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 496** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Nashville Predators Foundation.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 497** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Shen Yun Performing Arts.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 498** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Kenneth W. Lowe.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 499** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Selmer First United Methodist Church, 125th Anniversary.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 500** -- Memorials, Death -- Robert Jones.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 501** -- Memorials, Death -- Dr. H.K. Sorrell.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 502** -- Memorials, Death -- Peter Lucius "Pete" Reagan.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 503** -- Memorials, Death -- William Franklin Tapp.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 504** -- Memorials, Death -- John Payson Matthews III.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 505** -- Memorials, Death -- Robert William McGowan, Jr.

**Senate Resolution No. 146** -- Memorials, Retirement -- Dr. Frank Glover Witherspoon.



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**Senate Resolution No. 147** -- Memorials, Recognition -- Kara Gilliam, Governor of 2017 Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

**House Joint Resolution No. 605** -- Memorials, Sports -- Union City High School football team, TSSAA Division I Class 2A State Champions.

**House Joint Resolution No. 606** -- Memorials, Death -- Lila Lee Snead.

**House Joint Resolution No. 607** -- Memorials, Sports -- David Threet, 2017 Clay County Sports Hall of Fame.

**House Joint Resolution No. 608** -- Memorials, Sports -- Michelle Chambers Proctor, 2017 Clay County Sports Hall of Fame.

**House Joint Resolution No. 609** -- Memorials, Sports -- Paul Martin Garrett, 2017 Clay County Sports Hall of Fame.

**House Joint Resolution No. 610** -- Memorials, Sports -- Jerry Eads, 2017 Clay County Sports Hall of Fame.

**House Joint Resolution No. 611** -- Memorials, Sports -- Tara Ashlock Anderson, 2017 Clay County Sports Hall of Fame.

**House Joint Resolution No. 613** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Christian Shaun Corbin, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 614** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Antonio Anselmo, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 615** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Samuel P. Heldman, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 616** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Patrick James Bartol, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 617** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Chase Brown Delk, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 618** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Matthew Thomas Howell, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 619** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Matthew William Lacy, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 620** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Garrett Johnson, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 621** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Nathan Tucker Harvill, Eagle Scout.

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**House Joint Resolution No. 622** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Cameron Joseph Hartley, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 623** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Ernesto Guzman III, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 624** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Tristan Daniel Bush, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 625** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- John Grady Brewer, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 626** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Evan Ryan Lindsey, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 627** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Billy Gene Carrigan, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 628** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Benjamin David Hatcher, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 629** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Isaac Edward Wood, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 630** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Wesley Waggoner Sisk, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 631** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Joseph Mack O'Bryant, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 632** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Daniel Amis Trammell, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 633** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Wesley Allen Baxter, Eagle Scout.

**House Joint Resolution No. 634** -- Memorials, Personal Achievement -- Jimmy William Meacham, Eagle Scout.

Senator Roberts moved that all Senate Joint Resolutions and Senate Resolutions be adopted; and all House Joint Resolutions be concurred in, which motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes ..... 32  
Noes ..... 0

Senators voting aye were: Bailey, Bell, Bowling, Briggs, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Green, Gresham, Haile, Harper, Harris, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Lundberg, Massey, Niceley, Norris, Pody, Roberts, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Tate, Watson, Yager, Yarbro and Mr. Speaker McNally--32.

A motion to reconsider was tabled.

**MOTION**

Senator Yager moved that Rule 83(8) be suspended for the purpose of placing **Senate Bills Nos. 1483, 1509, 1582 and 1729** on the calendar for the Committee on State and Local Government for Tuesday, January 30, 2018, which motion prevailed.

**RECESS**

Senator Norris moved pursuant to **Senate Joint Resolution No. 516**, the Senate recess and repair to the House Chamber to meet with the House of Representatives in Joint Convention for the purpose of hearing the Governor's State of the State Address; and further moved at the conclusion of the Joint Convention the Senate adjourn until 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018, which motion prevailed.

**IN JOINT CONVENTION  
MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Madam President Harwell called the Joint Convention to order pursuant to **Senate Joint Resolution No. 516**.

**ROLL CALL**

Madam President Harwell declared that a quorum was present.

On motion of Senator Norris, the roll call of the Senate was dispensed with.

On motion of Representative Casada, the roll call of the House was dispensed with.

Mr. Russell Humphrey, Chief Clerk of the Senate, read **Senate Joint Resolution No. 516**, authorizing the Joint Convention to hear the Message of Governor Bill Haslam.

**MOTION**

Senator Norris moved that Madam President Harwell appoint a committee composed of five members from the Senate and five members from the House of Representatives to notify the Governor the Joint Convention was in session and awaiting his arrival, which motion prevailed.

**APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE**

Madam President Harwell appointed a committee composed of Senators Harper, Ketron, Norris, Pody and Tate; and Representatives Akbari, Kevin Brooks, Faison, McDaniels and Sargent. Senator Norris served as Chairperson of this committee.

**RECESS**

On motion, the Joint Convention recessed pending the arrival of the Governor.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Madam President Harwell called the Joint Convention to order.

Madam President Harwell declared a quorum was present.

On motion, the roll calls of the Senate and House of Representatives were dispensed with.

The Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor, appeared at the Bar of the House Chamber and was escorted to the Speaker's Podium.

Madam Speaker Harwell presented the Honorable Bill Haslam, who delivered the following address:

**STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

Governor Bill Haslam  
January 29, 2018

Lieutenant Governor McNally, Speaker Harwell, Speakers Pro Tem Haile and Johnson, Members of the 110th General Assembly, Constitutional Officers, Justices, General Slatery, Commissioners, Friends, Guests, fellow Tennesseans, and to the girl from Memphis that I first met 42 years ago and still have a crush on today, Crissy.

Nine years ago this month, with Crissy and my family standing beside me, I announced that I was going to follow a calling that I felt to run for Governor of Tennessee. Later, Crissy gently reminded me that it was good to feel called to run, but it was an election that would determine if I was actually called to be Governor. I will always be grateful that the people of Tennessee gave me the chance to have what I still think is the greatest job in the world.

So seven years ago, for the first time, I had the honor and privilege of speaking to you in my first State of the State address. I can remember standing in the back, waiting to be announced, and realizing it was only about the third time I had ever been in the house chamber. To be honest, there were a lot of things that I didn't know. But, there was one thing that I did know with great conviction.

At that first State of the State Address, I stood before you and said, if we will make the right plans and decisions, then the state of Tennessee can compete with any state in the nation.

I'm sure a lot of people wondered if we really could compete with the very best. But then, a lot of people wondered if Nashville, Tennessee could really have a hockey team. And if they did, would anyone show up for games? The 2017 Western Conference Champion Predators answered that.

Or, people once wondered if a start-up company in Memphis could really build a business of delivering overnight packages all over the world. Or, if a country girl from Sevierville, or a brown liquid from Lynchburg, could both become known around the world by just their first names. We all know how Fed Ex, Dolly and Jack turned out.

So seven years later, it is time to ask ourselves – how are we doing at competing with and against the very best?

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The answer: We're doing really well. In the short time we've worked together, we have become one of the best destinations to live, work and raise a family.

Because of our commitment to jobs, education and conservative fiscal policy:

- Tennessee has a job growth rate greater than 17 percent, far above the national average, with nearly 400,000 net new private sector jobs created.
- We've added more than \$1.3 billion into K-12 education, with nearly \$450 million more going to teacher salaries. And thanks to the hard work and dedication of our educators and parents, and the additional accountability to our system, our children are the fastest improving students in the nation, across math, reading and science.
- And you'd think we did all of this by raising taxes the way other states have, but in Tennessee we've cut taxes by \$572 million annually, with policies in place to reduce taxes even more in years to come.
- Additionally, we've cut year-to-year spending by \$578 million. Most states would have found such a task insurmountable, but we didn't just do these things, we did them while tripling the Rainy Day Fund and decreasing our debt.

What this means for our citizens who have placed their trust in us is this:

- Regarding jobs, last year I told you more Tennesseans had a job than at any other point in state history. This year we have dramatically improved on that. Our unemployment rate has dropped from 5.1 percent to as low as 3 percent, the lowest rate in our state's 222-year history.
- In education, Tennessee students are posting the largest gains in the country and the highest high school graduation rates the state has ever seen. And while other states struggle to improve access to higher education, we created Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect, so that all Tennesseans have access to college, free of tuition and fees.
- And as it relates to being entrusted stewards of the people's money, we have accomplished all of these things while Tennesseans pay some of the lowest, if not the lowest, taxes in the nation.

Seven years ago, we began changing our expectations. In doing so, we realized we could compete with any state. Maybe that should have been a foregone conclusion, but at the time federal funds were vanishing and we were contending with a billion-dollar hole in the state budget.

Because of our willingness to make tough calls and take on challenges, Tennessee grew stronger.

The kind of progress we are talking about has not happened for many other states. I'll remind you that even in this healthy economy, many states are facing deficits. This kind of fiscal responsibility matters because the people count on us to deliver critical services whether the economy is good or bad.

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You see, Tennessee's success didn't just happen, we didn't just get lucky. We have made tough decisions and focused on solving problems. That's how real progress gets made.

So let me be clear, because of the effectiveness of our work, Tennessee is in a better place today than it has ever been before.

But you and I learned a long time ago, "to whom much has been given, much is expected."

This evening, I am proposing a bold new challenge. I want Tennessee to lead the nation in jobs, education and government efficiency. I don't just want us to compete; I want us to be the best.

Seven years ago we raised our expectations. We became the kind of leaders who didn't just talk about cutting taxes and enhancing services, we actually did lower taxes while growing our economy and providing access to high quality education. We cannot lose the momentum we have worked so hard to build.

Now is the time to ask ourselves this question, can Tennessee really lead the nation? And just as important, why should we want to do that?

Our reasons for desiring to lead are simple.

Our country's founding fathers established the states as laboratories of democracy, where each state could choose its own path and learn what works. In Tennessee, we now know what works.

We've seen extraordinary job gains and now we must continue to fuel the jobs machine that we have created here in Tennessee.

We've gone from the back of the pack in education results to being a state frequently cited as an innovator – now we have the opportunity to accelerate those gains.

And, working together, our record of low taxes and low debt now position us to be the very best stewards of the people's money.

In a time when the American people are frustrated with political gridlock, Tennessee will lead the charge in showing the country what it means to actually solve problems.

Can we lead? The answer is yes. Tennessee can and will lead, and I am confident the Tennessee way of providing opportunity, while ensuring accountability, will prevail.

So why are we using jobs, education and government efficiency to measure ourselves?

Because by continuing to fuel the jobs machine we have created here in Tennessee, we lift up the already high quality of life here in this great state. Jobs are created when businesses put capital at risk, so we've focused on fostering the best business environment.

And because every business is looking for predictability, we passed tort reform and workers' compensation reform to bring our state into a more competitive position and make our business environment more predictable for businesses looking to grow or to locate here. Today, our worker's compensation insurance rates are 40 percent below what they used to be.

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We restructured our Department of Economic and Community Development and they began to focus on the unique assets in each region of our state. The state's FastTrack program began to steer away from tax credits and began to focus on grants with a better return for our citizens.

And this past year, the IMPROVE Act strategically focused on economic development from multiple angles. Good roads lead to good jobs. By providing a safe and reliable transportation network, we're making sure the next generations of Tennesseans have access to the high quality jobs made possible by a robust transportation system.

The IMPROVE Act also cut taxes for manufacturing businesses, a strategic advantage we focused on because, for every manufacturing job created, there are three to four other jobs that come with it, and businesses are already coming to Tennessee because of this change.

And, for all of our efforts, Tennessee is now being recognized for the jobs machine we have created. During this administration, Tennessee was named the number one state for Advanced Industry Job Growth by The Brookings Institution. We were named State of the Year for Economic Development by Business Facilities magazine, not once, but twice, becoming the only state to win back-to-back years. Additionally, we ranked No. 1 for new jobs resulting from foreign direct investment. And very importantly to us, during 2017 alone, 45 percent of Tennessee's new job commitments were located in our rural communities.

In addition to all of these economic development strategies, there's an even more critical step that we have taken.

We quickly realized, if we could not provide businesses looking at expanding here or locating here the skilled workforce needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, those businesses would go elsewhere. And if we could not offer new businesses coming to Tennessee a quality K-12 education for their own children, well, those businesses would go elsewhere too.

I want to be really clear – when we talk about jobs, we are also talking about education. We are talking about the ability for every Tennessean to fully realize his or her potential. We are talking about the God-designed gift that is the joy of learning. And we are talking about the importance of creating a solid foundation for every child in Tennessee to enjoy a meaningful and productive life. So when we talk about education, we are talking about the very future and success of Tennessee.

Tennessee is now viewed as a change agent, an innovator in the world of public education. By accelerating the gains we've made and, most importantly, staying true to the reforms in place, we will ensure that no matter how much money a family has, and no matter what neighborhood a child grows up in, every student will have an opportunity to learn.

We have introduced accountability into teacher tenure, treating it more like the honored profession it is. In 2012, we asked our teachers if they believed the teacher evaluation process used in their school led to improvements in their teaching. Thirty-eight percent of our teachers believed it had. Five years later, the number of teachers reporting that the evaluation process has improved their teaching has nearly doubled. Today, 74 percent of our teachers agree they are better teachers because of the evaluation process.

We committed to the goal that every student has a quality teacher in a school led by a great principal. We have set high Tennessee state standards. We are no longer lowering our hoops to five feet and telling everyone our kids can dunk.

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We lifted the caps on charter schools, giving parents more choices, and six of our state universities now have local boards focused solely on making those campuses the best they can be.

We implemented the Complete College Act and expanded statewide a successful pilot program that began at Chattanooga State, the SAILS program, which tackles the issue of high school graduates coming to college unprepared for the coursework. As a matter of fact, 15 percent fewer students need remedial work when they get to college now.

All of these were discussions that needed to be had, with tough decisions to be sorted through, but as we think back to our fundamental challenge of not just competing with other states, but believing we could be the best, it was clear a shock to the system was needed.

Everyone in this room or watching this at home can be proud of the realization that all Tennesseans have access to college free of tuition and fees – everyone. We did that through the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect programs. We did that, without raising taxes. And it's a promise not just for the next few years, but for the next generation of high school students and the next generation after that, whose sights will automatically lift to a college degree because we've removed that barrier to access. Our goal of 55 percent of Tennesseans having a certificate or degree by 2025 WILL happen. In fact, if we sustain our current momentum, we are on pace to meet the Drive to 55 goal two years early.

But to lead the country, we must continue to push forward. A recent report from Stanford University highlighted K-12 student achievement growth throughout the country and the results are startling. The South, and particularly the Southeast, has not fared well. But in a sea of low to mediocre growth, one specific place on the map stands out as a beacon of progress. That place is Tennessee.

This report has the rest of the country talking and trying to figure out what Tennessee is doing right. I would submit to you it's not magic dust or rocket science, but rather a lot of people working hard every single day. Tennesseans who have maintained a commitment and willingness to make hard policy decisions around school accountability, and to stick to them when things get tough and critics get loud.

The fact is this: together we have made the right calls, the tough calls, on the policies we've pursued. And we now have proof that our decisions were right. Why have other states not experienced the same growth we have? Well, it's actually a pretty simple answer. Nearly every other state has compromised in some way on the core principles of those policies that have proved to make a difference: high standards, assessments that measure those standards, and educator evaluations tied to those assessments.

We have not compromised. And I'm asking you to stand with me to ensure that we don't back up now. Not now. Not this year. Not next year. Not ever.

Tennessee can and will lead the nation in education.

But decisions about jobs and education are not made in a vacuum, so we must measure ourselves in a third way. There is no single more important thing the Governor and General Assembly do than put together a state budget. Budget sets policy. So let's talk about government efficiency.

Coming out of the Great Recession, we had a billion dollar hole in the state budget and a Rainy Day Fund that had served its purpose but was in need of rebuilding. We didn't just back into lowering taxes in record amounts these last seven years. We had to work for it.



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There was a need, and we had the opportunity to drastically overhaul the state's budget with a new philosophy built around seeking innovation and a commitment to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. Working together, our strong track record of low taxes and low debt now allows us to be the very best stewards of the people's money.

For decades, employment decisions in state government were based solely on seniority with no consideration of job performance, while employees either received modest, across the board pay increases, or nothing at all. That is not a good way to motivate our employees or serve our taxpayers.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: the team with the best players wins. State government's role is to provide services that Tennesseans aren't able to get on their own. Great employees make sure we're providing those services in the most customer focused and effective way.

The TEAM Act changed how we hire, evaluate, and reward state employees. It delivers what hard working employees deserve and what taxpayers expect. And both are seeing the benefits. Tennessee state employees, on average today, make \$10,000 more than they did seven years ago. No other administration or General Assembly in history has worked as hard to fairly compensate our team members as we have.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Cabinet for their outstanding work. They have taken a customer focused approach to leading and serving. We put in place a performance management system, where leadership is held accountable for great service delivery. They have taken tourism to new levels, deployed troops all over the world, served our veterans honorably, protected us, improved health care, led safe prisons, built better roads, focused on our children and other vulnerable citizens, settled decades old lawsuits that had cost us billions of dollars, and I could keep going all night. Please join me in thanking them for their great work.

We took a hard look at better managing our state's assets. We have invested in maintaining our buildings like never before, so that our state facilities are ready to serve future generations of Tennesseans. We have eliminated unnecessary square footage, and during this administration, we will have vacated more than one million square feet of state office space, eliminating significant dollars in operating costs.

So you may wonder, how we can maintain our status as one of the lowest taxed states in the nation? We must continue to explore industry best practices and we must stay true to our principles of providing the best possible services at the lowest possible cost.

We've cut \$578 million in taxes, including a nearly 30 percent cut to the tax that everyone pays, the sales tax on groceries. We've set a schedule to end the Hall income tax, and we have already eliminated the inheritance tax and the gift tax. At the end of the day, we will have cut taxes nine times more than any other Governor and General Assembly before us.

For all of our efforts and our problem-solving, Tennessee is recognized as one of the best managed states in the nation. We have the lowest debt per capita in the nation, and we have one of the lowest taxes in the nation as a percentage of personal income. But we're also seeing the results I've mentioned: rising incomes for families, more jobs than ever before, and our lowest unemployment rate in state history.

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Governing Magazine recently said, and I quote, "Seven years ago, Tennessee was seen as a laggard in the field of public administration. Today it's a leader." And "Tennessee offers a compelling example of what conservative government can deliver."

We will lead the nation in efficiency by being the best stewards of the people's money. Again, we didn't just get lucky. The collective decisions we have made over the last seven years have allowed us to reach where we are. To retain that, we will need a relentless pursuit of providing the best services at the lowest possible cost.

When I began as your governor, I challenged us to be better. Tonight I'm challenging us to take the next step. While we have accomplished so much, our work is not done. We must not let up. We must not slow down.

The opioid epidemic is crippling our state and our country. The United States of America comprises approximately 5 percent of the world's population, but we use 80 percent of the world's opioids. In Tennessee, we write 7.6 million prescriptions a year and there are only 6.6 million of us, a staggering statistic. This is a crisis that knows no boundaries and impacts individuals and families regardless of race, income, gender or age.

Last week, we announced TN Together, a comprehensive plan to end the opioid crisis that focuses on prevention, treatment and law enforcement. Our approach will be aggressive with provisions to limit the supply of opioids, provide significant dollars to treat those in need, and to fight the illicit sale and trafficking of opioids. This will not be an easy fight, or one that will be won overnight, but it is one we must attack head on.

I want to commend the considerable work the House and Senate have already done to help inform and construct the plan and I want to thank the judiciary for its collaboration and leadership on this important issue. Tonight I ask that all stakeholders around this issue work together with us to achieve real reform and take action that will save lives.

In K-12 education, we must continue to push forward with policies that have led us to be the fastest improving state in the nation: high standards, assessments tied to those standards, and educator evaluations that include measuring how students perform on those assessments.

And we should continue to couple increased accountability with increased investment. If the budget I am proposing for next year is approved, together we will have added nearly \$1.5 billion to K-12 education, with more than \$500 million for teacher salaries. Think about those figures. These are unprecedented increases and anyone who claims this administration or General Assembly is not fully committed to public education is simply ignoring the facts. We have supported our educators and public schools and we will continue to do so. But we will do it in a way that improves student outcomes, not one that erases the gains we have made.

In higher education, we have made great strides towards improving access to college through the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect programs. We can also be proud, that due to the hard work of our colleges and universities, Tennessee has had the lowest three years of tuition increases in the last 40 years. But it is time for us to not just focus on access, but success in college. While more students are entering Tennessee's postsecondary schools, only one out of every four community college students completes college in six years, and roughly half complete at our four-year institutions during that same time frame.

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The research is clear: taking the credits needed to graduate on time results in better academic performance, higher retention rates, and the increased likelihood of completion. So tonight, I am announcing the Complete to Compete initiative, which, through appropriate levers and resources to students, will ensure that they start strong, receive support to stay on track, and make it to graduation day.

Tonight, I am also introducing the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. We know that too many kids get lost in the juvenile justice system. With great leadership from the Senate and the House, a task force on juvenile justice studied our system and determined that reform is needed.

We can do better. We can be smarter. And tonight I am asking the General Assembly to adopt responsible reforms that will focus the most significant state intervention on the most serious offenses. We know from evidence that costly out-of-home placements, in many circumstances, are not good for children, communities or taxpayers. With a responsible investment now, we can positively impact the lives of children and their communities, and use our resources more effectively.

Seven years ago we challenged ourselves to compete against the best. We have met that challenge. Not only have we transformed into a state that can compete, we have created the kind of momentum it takes to actually lead. Make no mistake – this is one of the most effective governments in Tennessee's history, and the momentum we have created will make us the most effective state government in the country.

It has been my life's greatest honor to lead the state I love for the past seven years. Will you join me in finishing what we began?

Tennessee, it is time to lead the nation. I believe we can and I believe we will.

- Tennessee will lead because every man and woman, created in the image of God, deserves meaningful work.
- Tennessee will lead because every child in every zip code deserves a high-quality education.
- And Tennessee will lead because taxpayers, hard-working Tennesseans who get up every day with the desire and hope to do better today than they did yesterday, deserve a government that will work as hard as they do.

Several weeks ago on a Sunday night, I was driving back to Nashville from a weekend in Knoxville. Well, actually I wasn't driving, I was being driven. That's another thing that will change about my life in about a year. Travelling down I-40 in the dark that night, I started thinking about this amazing journey that we have been on for the last several years and how much I have loved the honor of having this job.

I thought of a quote that I had memorized back in college that seemed right then, but I know now to be even truer than a 20-year-old could know. Oliver Wendell Holmes, the brilliant jurist, said, "This is the great joy in life, to be a force for good, instead of a feverish selfish clod of ailments, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy." The people of Tennessee have given us this incredible opportunity to be a force for good.

Whether, like me, you have one more year, or you intend to be here for years to come, let's use this time while we have the privilege of answering the call to lead, to be that force for good for the state of Tennessee.

Let's decide now that Tennessee will lead.

Thank you and good night.

**MADAM PRESIDENT HARWELL RELINQUISHES THE CHAIR**

Madam President Harwell relinquished the Chair to Mr. Speaker McNally as President.

**DISSOLUTION OF JOINT CONVENTION**

Mr. President McNally declared the purpose for which this Joint Convention was called having been accomplished, the Joint Convention stood dissolved.

**MOTION**

On motion of Senator Green, his name was added as sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 295**.

On motion of Senator Green, his name was added as prime sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 601**.

On motion of Senator Overbey, his name was removed as sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 601**.

On motion of Senator Swann, his name was added as prime sponsor of **Senate Bills Nos. 200, 215, 216, 366, 373, 374, 375 and 1062**.

On motion of Senator Overbey, his name was removed as sponsor of **Senate Bills Nos. 200, 215, 216, 366, 373, 374, 375 and 1062**.

On motion of Senator Jackson, his name was added as sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 264**.

On motion of Senator Bell, his name was added as sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 1906**.

On motion of Senator Harper, her name was added as sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 1907**.

On motion of Senator Johnson, his name was added as sponsor of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 495**.

On motion of Senators Yarbro and Harper, their names were added as sponsors of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 496**.

On motion of Senator Gresham and Mr. Speaker McNally, their names were added as sponsors of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 498**.

On motion of Senators Haile, Harper, Yarbro, Bailey, Bell, Bowling, Briggs, Crowe, Gardenhire, Green, Gresham, Harris, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Lundberg, Massey, Niceley, Norris, Pody, Roberts, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Tate, Watson and Yager, their names were added as sponsors of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 531**.

On motion of Senator Stevens, his name was added as sponsor of **House Joint Resolution No. 605**.

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On motion of Senator Crowe, his name was added as sponsor of **House Joint Resolution No. 606**.

On motion of Senator Bailey and Mr. Speaker McNally, their names were added as sponsors of **House Joint Resolutions Nos. 607, 608, 609, 610 and 611**.

On motion of Senator Hensley, his name was added as sponsor of **House Joint Resolutions Nos. 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633 and 634**.

**ENGROSSED BILLS**

January 29, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: Your Deputy Chief Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully examined: Senate Joint Resolution No. 531, and find same correctly engrossed and ready for transmission to the House.

ALAN WHITTINGTON,  
Deputy Chief Clerk

**ENGROSSED BILLS**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: Your Deputy Chief Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully examined: Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504 and 505; and find same correctly engrossed and ready for transmission to the House.

ALAN WHITTINGTON,  
Deputy Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to transmit to the Senate, House Joint Resolutions Nos. 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682 and 685; adopted, for the Senate's action.

TAMMY LETZLER,  
Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 29, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to return to the Senate, Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 480, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 493 and 531; concurred in by the House.

TAMMY LETZLER,  
Chief Clerk

**ENROLLED BILLS**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: Your Deputy Chief Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully compared Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 480, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491 and 493; and Senate Resolutions Nos. 146 and 147; and find same correctly enrolled and ready for the signatures of the Speakers.

ALAN WHITTINGTON,  
Deputy Chief Clerk

**ENROLLED BILLS**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: Your Deputy Chief Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully compared Senate Joint Resolution No. 531, and find same correctly enrolled and ready for the signatures of the Speakers.

ALAN WHITTINGTON,  
Deputy Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 29, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to transmit to the Senate, House Joint Resolutions Nos. 88, 598, 601, 602, 604 and 640; for the signature of the Speaker.

TAMMY LETZLER,  
Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to transmit to the Senate, House Joint Resolutions Nos. 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633 and 634; for the signature of the Speaker.

TAMMY LETZLER,  
Chief Clerk

**SIGNED**

January 30, 2018

The Speaker announced that he had signed the following: Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 480, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491 and 493; and Senate Resolutions Nos. 146 and 147.

**SIGNED**

January 30, 2018

The Speaker announced that he had signed the following: Senate Joint Resolution No. 531.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018 -- 46TH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

**SIGNED**

January 30, 2018

The Speaker announced that he had signed the following: House Joint Resolutions Nos. 88, 598, 601, 602, 604 and 640.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to return to the Senate, Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 480, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491 and 493; signed by the Speaker.

TAMMY LETZLER,  
Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 30, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to return to the Senate, Senate Joint Resolution No. 531, signed by the Speaker.

TAMMY LETZLER,  
Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

January 29, 2018

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed by the Governor to return herewith: Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 481, 483, 484, 485 and 516; with his approval.

DWIGHT E. TARWATER,  
Counsel to the Governor

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CALENDAR  
CONSENT CALENDAR**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Committee on Calendar begs leave to report that we have met and set the following bills on the calendar for Wednesday, January 31, 2018: Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 514 and 515; and Senate Resolutions Nos. 148 and 149.

This the 29th day of January, 2018  
ROBERTS, Chairperson

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CALENDAR**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Committee on Calendar begs leave to report that we have met and set the following bills on the calendar for Wednesday, January 31, 2018: Senate Joint Resolution No. 88.

This the 29th day of January, 2018  
ROBERTS, Chairperson

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018 -- 46TH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CALENDAR  
CONSENT CALENDAR # 1**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Committee on Calendar begs leave to report that we have met and set the following bills on the calendar for Thursday, February 1, 2018: Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 517, 522, 523 and 524; Senate Resolution No. 151; and House Joint Resolutions Nos. 636, 637, 638, 639, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654 and 656.

This the 30th day of January, 2018  
ROBERTS, Chairperson

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CALENDAR  
CONSENT CALENDAR # 2**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Committee on Calendar begs leave to report that we have met and set the following bills on the calendar for Thursday, February 1, 2018: Senate Bills Nos. 1469, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1508, 1518, 1520, 1522, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1533, 1535, 1536, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1550, 1561, 1610 and 1729.

This the 30th day of January, 2018  
ROBERTS, Chairperson

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CALENDAR**

MR. SPEAKER: Your Committee on Calendar begs leave to report that we have met and set the following bills on the calendar for Thursday, February 1, 2018: Senate Bills Nos. 105 and 1503.

This the 30th day of January, 2018  
ROBERTS, Chairperson

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Senator Norris's motion, the Senate adjourned until 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018.